Lima, Melissa

Period: 5

10/14/13

AP English Language

The Crucible: Anticipation/Reaction Guide

8. A person is innocent until proven guilty.

I do not believe a person is innocent until proven guilty. There are such things as false accusations and police officers arresting in spite of jealousy or anger. Presumption of innocence is a legal right that we all are granted. It states that no person shall be considered guilty until finally convicted by a court. In our day and age people have to back up their stories with evidence. Evidence is the proof that backs up the opinion of others. There was a case not too long ago, the Casey Anthony trial, consisting of a mother accused of killing her daughter. The prosecution had all the evidence to show that Casey Anthony, mother of Caylee Anthony, had killed her daughter but the jury found Casey not guilty simply because the prosecution had not figured out exactly HOW Anthony killed her daughter. Therefore, a person is not innocent until proven guilty because although one might have all the proof in the world to show that a person is not guilty, someone else might view them as innocent. People have different mentalities as well as different ways that they view things, some are more empathetic and others are more cold hearted, our jury in court is based off of these people and that is why sometimes the men and women whom are not innocent are free while those innocent are left to rot in jail. Although it is common sense to accuse someone of committing a crime if you have the proof to back it up, that person might be found innocent after. That is simply how our jury works and how our law system acts towards things, we sometimes find the innocent guilty and guilty innocent. Another case was the Thomas Kennedy case of 2001 where Kennedy’s eleven year-old daughter at the time, Cassandra, accused him of rape. Cassandra was able to she give detailed accounts of being raped in the bathroom, using stuffed animals to show what had occurred. She was examined at a medical clinic and a physician found evidence of trauma to her genitals. Thomas Kennedy was then found guilty and sentenced to fifteen years in prison. In March of 2012, Cassandra admitted to falsely accusing her father of rape and stated that she was just mad about her father not being around much of her childhood. This goes to show that although a person is innocent, it does not matter because there are people out there who are successful at convincing otherwise. A person is capable of being innocent although they have not yet been proven guilty because at times the court of law can make a mistake like many that have occurred before.

References:

Bonomini, Laura. "Casey Anthony Trial." *Crime Museum*. National Museum of Crime & Punishment, 23 Jan 2013. Web. 13 Oct 2013. <http://www.crimemuseum.org/blog/in-the-news/casey-anthony-trial/>.

Possley, Maurice. "Thomas Kennedy." *The National Registry of Exonerations*. The National Registry of Ecxonerations. Web. 13 Oct 2013. <http://www.law.umich.edu/special/exoneration/pages/casedetail.aspx?caseid=3892>.